Docket No.: 122.1579 Serial No. 10/765,922

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 3, 4, 17 and 18 and AMEND claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, and 15 and ADD new claims 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A printer, comprising:

a printing section ~~for providing a print~~ printing on a printing paper fed continuously thereto;

a cutting section arranged downstream of said printing section in a paper feeding direction, said cutting section ~~including~~ comprising:

a fixed blade and a movable blade which cooperate with each other to cut the printing paper, said fixed blade and said movable blade being shiftable relative to each other between a cooperative mutually-adjoining position and an uncooperative mutually-remote position;

a power transmission mechanism transmitting the driving force of said drive source to said movable blade to move said movable blade, and wherein said power transmission mechanism includes a first gear train disposed on said first support member and connected with said drive source and a second gear train disposed on said second support member and connected with said movable blade, said first gear train being connected with said second gear train when said fixed blade and said movable blade are in said mutually-adjoining position, said first gear train being disconnected from said second gear train as said fixed blade and said movable blade are shifted from said mutually-adjoining position to said mutually-remote position, and

an elastic member biasing said movable blade on said second support member toward a retraction position, and wherein said movable blade is operated for cutting by the driving force of said drive source against biasing force of said elastic member when said first gear train is connected with said second gear train, and is retracted into said retraction position under the biasing force of said elastic member when said first gear train is disconnected from said second gear train;

a support mechanism ~~for~~ supporting said printing section and said cutting section, said

support mechanism including a first support member supporting said fixed blade of said cutting section and a second support member supporting said movable blade of said cutting section, said first support member being fixedly arranged to specify an operative printing point in said printing section and said second support member being shiftably arranged relative to said first support member; and

a drive source provided in said cutting section ~~for~~ generating a driving force to move said movable blade on said second support member, said drive source being mounted on said first support member.

2. (ORIGINAL) A printer as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a supplying section arranged upstream of said printing section in the paper feeding direction and receiving a printing paper in a continuously feedable manner, wherein said first support member is associated with a stationary base carrying the printing paper received in said supplying section, and wherein said second support member is associated with a shiftable cover joined relatively shiftably with said stationary base and cooperating with said stationary base to define a paper receiving space in said supplying section.

3. (CANCELLED)

4. (CANCELLED)

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A printer as set forth in claim ~~3~~1, wherein said second gear train includes a pair of pinions rotatable synchronously with each other, said pinions being disposed alongside opposite lateral ends of said movable blade to transmit the driving force to said lateral ends.

6. (ORIGINAL) A printer as set forth in claim 5, wherein said second gear train includes a pair of racks engagable respectively with said pair of pinions, said racks being secured to said lateral ends to cover local surface areas of said movable blade.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A printer as set forth in claim ~~3~~1, wherein said printing section is provided with a paper feed roller disposed on said second support member, a second drive source disposed on said first support member, independently from said drive source for said movable blade, ~~for~~ rotationally driving said paper feed roller on said second support

member, and a second power transmission mechanism ~~for~~ transmitting driving force of said second drive source to said paper feed roller, and wherein said second power transmission mechanism includes a third gear train disposed on said first support member and connected with said second drive source and a fourth gear train disposed on said second support member and connected with said paper feed roller, said third gear train being constructed substantially identical with said first gear train.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A printer as set forth in claim ~~3~~1, wherein said printing section is provided with a paper feed roller disposed on said second support member, and wherein said power transmission mechanism is arranged to selectively transmit the driving force of said drive source to one of said movable blade and said paper feed roller to alternatively cause a cutting operation by said movable blade and a feeding operation by said paper feed roller.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A printer as set forth in claim 1, wherein said cutting section is further provided with a sensor ~~for~~ sensing a location of said movable blade in relation to said fixed blade in said mutually-adjoining position, and a controller ~~for~~ controlling said drive source in accordance with a sensing signal of said sensor.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A printer as set forth in claim 1, wherein said cutting section is further provided with a pushing member ~~for~~ elastically pushing said fixed blade on said first support member in a direction such that said fixed blade is abutted to said movable blade.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A printer as set forth in claim 1, wherein said cutting section is further provided with a movable blade guide ~~for~~ guiding said movable blade along a predetermined path during a cutting operation by said movable blade in said mutually-adjoining position.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A printer as set forth in claim 11, wherein said movable blade guide is disposed on said first support member, and wherein said cutting section is further provided with a release mechanism ~~for~~ forcibly displacing said movable blade guide from a guide position for engagement with said movable blade to a release position for release of said movable blade.

13. (ORIGINAL) A printer as set forth in claim 1, wherein said fixed blade is located upstream of said movable blade in the paper feeding direction when said movable blade and said fixed blade are in said mutually-adjoining position.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A cutter, comprising:

a fixed blade and a movable blade, which cooperate with each other to cut a printing paper, said fixed blade and said movable blade being shiftable relative to each other between a cooperative mutually-adjoining position and an uncooperative mutually-remote position;

a first support member supporting said fixed blade and fixedly arranged in association with a supply source of the printing paper;

a second support member supporting said movable blade and shiftably arranged relative to said first support member; ~~and~~

a drive source ~~for~~ generating a driving force to move said movable blade on said second support member, said drive source being mounted on said first support member;

a power transmission mechanism transmitting the driving force of said drive source to said movable blade to move said movable blade, wherein said power transmission mechanism includes a first gear train disposed on said first support member and connected with said drive source and a second gear train disposed on said second support member and connected with said movable blade, said first gear train being connected with said second gear train when said fixed blade and said movable blade are in said mutually-adjoining position, said first gear train being disconnected from said second gear train as said fixed blade and said movable blade are shifted from said mutually-adjoining position to said mutually-remote position; and

an elastic member biasing said movable blade on said second support member toward a retraction position, and wherein said movable blade is operated for cutting by the driving force of said drive source against biasing force of said elastic member when said first gear train is connected with said second gear train, and is retracted into said retraction position due to the biasing force of said elastic member when said first gear train is disconnected from said second gear train.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A cutter as set forth in claim 14, incorporated ~~for use with~~ in a printer provided with a printing section, wherein said first support member is capable of being fixedly arranged to specify an operative printing point in said printing section.

16. (ORIGINAL) A cutter as set forth in claim 15, wherein said printer is further provided with a supplying section arranged upstream of said printing section in a paper feeding direction, wherein said first support member is capable of being associated with a stationary base carrying the printing paper in said supplying section, and wherein said second support member is capable of being associated with a shiftable cover joined relatively shiftably with said stationary base and cooperating with said stationary base to define a paper receiving space in said supplying section.

17. (CANCELLED)

18. (CANCELLED)

19. (NEW) A printer, comprising:

a printing section printing on a printing paper fed continuously thereto;

a cutting section arranged downstream of said printing section in a paper feeding direction, said cutting section comprising:

a fixed blade and a movable blade which cooperate with each other to cut the printing paper, said fixed blade and said movable blade being shiftable relative to each other between a cooperative mutually-adjoining position and an uncooperative mutually-remote position,

a support mechanism supporting said printing section and said cutting section, said support mechanism including a first support member supporting said fixed blade of said cutting section and a second support member supporting said movable blade of said cutting section, said first support member being fixedly arranged to specify an operative printing point in said printing section and said second support member being shiftably arranged relative to said first support member, and

a power transmission mechanism transmitting the driving force of said drive source to said movable blade to move said movable blade, and wherein said power transmission mechanism includes a first gear train disposed on said first support member and connected with said drive source and a second gear train disposed on said second support member and connected with said movable blade, said first gear train being connected with said second gear train when said fixed blade and said movable blade are in said mutually-adjoining position, said first gear train being disconnected from said

second gear train as said fixed blade and said movable blade are shifted from said mutually-adjoining position to said mutually-remote position, said second gear train including a pair of pinions rotatable synchronously with each other, said pinions being disposed alongside opposite lateral ends of said movable blade to transmit the driving force to said lateral ends; and

a drive source provided in said cutting section generating a driving force to move said movable blade on said second support member, said drive source being mounted on said first support member.

20. (NEW) A printer as set forth in claim 19, wherein said second gear train includes a pair of racks engagable respectively with said pair of pinions, said racks being secured to said lateral ends to cover local surface areas of said movable blade.

21. (NEW) A printer, comprising:

a printing section printing on a printing paper fed continuously thereto;

a cutting section arranged downstream of said printing section in a paper feeding direction, said cutting section comprising:

a fixed blade and a movable blade which cooperate with each other to cut the printing paper, said fixed blade and said movable blade being shiftable relative to each other between a cooperative mutually-adjoining position and an uncooperative mutually-remote position,

a support mechanism supporting said printing section and said cutting section, said support mechanism including a first support member supporting said fixed blade of said cutting section and a second support member supporting said movable blade of said cutting section, said first support member being fixedly arranged to specify an operative printing point in said printing section and said second support member being shiftably arranged relative to said first support member,

a power transmission mechanism transmitting the driving force of said drive source to said movable blade to move said movable blade, and wherein said power transmission mechanism includes a first gear train disposed on said first support member and connected with said drive source and a second gear train disposed on said second support member and connected with said movable blade, said first gear train being connected with said second gear train when said fixed blade and said movable blade are in said mutually-adjoining position, said first gear train being disconnected from said

second gear train as said fixed blade and said movable blade are shifted from said mutually-adjoining position to said mutually-remote position; and

a drive source provided in said cutting section generating a driving force to move said movable blade on said second support member, said drive source being mounted on said first support member,

wherein said printing section is provided with a paper feed roller disposed on said second support member, a second drive source disposed on said first support member, independently from said drive source for said movable blade, rotationally driving said paper feed roller on said second support member, and a second power transmission mechanism transmitting a driving force of said second drive source to said paper feed roller, and wherein said second power transmission mechanism includes a third gear train disposed on said first support member and connected with said second drive source and a fourth gear train disposed on said second support member and connected with said paper feed roller, said third gear train being constructed substantially identical with said first gear train.

22. (NEW) A printer, comprising:

a printing section printing on a printing paper fed continuously thereto;

a cutting section arranged downstream of said printing section in a paper feeding direction, said cutting section comprising:

a fixed blade and a movable blade which cooperate with each other to cut the printing paper, said fixed blade and said movable blade being shiftable relative to each other between a cooperative mutually-adjoining position and an uncooperative mutually-remote position,

a support mechanism supporting said printing section and said cutting section, said support mechanism including a first support member supporting said fixed blade of said cutting section and a second support member supporting said movable blade of said cutting section, said first support member being fixedly arranged to specify an operative printing point in said printing section and said second support member being shiftably arranged relative to said first support member, and

a power transmission mechanism transmitting the driving force of said drive source to said movable blade to move said movable blade, and wherein said power transmission mechanism includes a first gear train disposed on said first support member and connected with said drive source and a second gear train disposed on said second support member and connected with said movable blade, said first gear train being

connected with said second gear train when said fixed blade and said movable blade are in said mutually-adjoining position, said first gear train being disconnected from said second gear train as said fixed blade and said movable blade are shifted from said mutually-adjoining position to said mutually-remote position; and

a drive source provided in said cutting section generating a driving force to move said movable blade on said second support member, said drive source being mounted on said first support member,

wherein said printing section is provided with a paper feed roller disposed on said second support member, and wherein said power transmission mechanism is arranged to selectively transmit the driving force of said drive source to one of said movable blade and said paper feed roller to alternatively cause a cutting operation by said movable blade and a feeding operation by said paper feed roller.

23. (NEW) A printer, comprising:

a printing section printing on a printing paper fed continuously thereto;

a cutting section arranged downstream of said printing section in a paper feeding direction, said cutting section including a fixed blade and a movable blade which cooperate with each other to cut the printing paper, said fixed blade and said movable blade being shiftable relative to each other between a cooperative mutually-adjoining position and an uncooperative mutually-remote position and a movable blade guide for guiding said movable blade along a predetermined path during a cutting operation by said movable blade in said mutually-adjoining position;

a support mechanism for supporting said printing section and said cutting section, said support mechanism including a first support member supporting said fixed blade of said cutting section and a second support member supporting said movable blade of said cutting section, said first support member being fixedly arranged to specify an operative printing point in said printing section and said second support member being shiftably arranged relative to said first support member;

said movable blade guide being disposed on said first support member, and said cutting section being further provided with a release mechanism for forcibly displacing said movable blade guide from a guide position for engagement with said movable blade to a release position for release of said movable blade; and

a drive source provided in said cutting section generating a driving force to move said movable blade on said second support member, said drive source being mounted on said first support member.